

January 14, 1957

Dr. J. J. Weigle
Caltech
Pasadena 4, Calif.

Dear Dr. Weigle:

1
We have your two letters from Puerto Vallarta, and the copy to Morse from Pasadena. We had waited to reply until you had returned to Pasadena thinking you went to Mexico for quiet and seclusion.

2 X
The Gal⁻ Lp³ cultures you requested were, however, sent several days ago and should be in your hands very soon.

3
We did not realize you seriously wanted us to comment on the advisability of your publishing the note: it appeared to us that this was already completed and submitted. This is so much a matter of personal temperament that we hesitate to forward our own views, and certainly would not insist on them. However, as you now state that you do intend to proceed with the analysis discussed in our correspondence, we do wonder if this note is not somewhat premature. In similar circumstances —e.g., the behavior of prophage markers in transduction, and the unstable Lp^F phenotypes,— we have felt that the story should be completed before it was published. But this is not a sort of question that can be profitably discussed in written correspondence. Fortunately, there is still some personal liberty in science, and not a rigid code to which we must conform.

4
As we also brought up earlier, Dr. Morse is most immediately interested in the problem of growth of HFT lambda. Although we are, of course, deeply concerned, he has to be consulted first with regard to any 'division of labor' in further studies.

5 X
To answer another of your questions, the effect of UVing the phage on the character of the transductional progeny, was studied here a couple of years ago, with the same type of result you indicated: stable Gal⁻ in place of heterogenotes, and non-lyogenic types.

We are trying as best we can to tie various loose strings together, so the various aspects of this work can be readied for publication. Morse is writing the drafts of one or two such papers now, but it will take some time for this to be completed. An unpublished summary of our work in this area is being drafted now as a 'progress report' for research grants, and you [and Kellenberger] will receive copies when this is ready.

Yours sincerely,

CC: MLM

Joshua and Esther M.
Lederberg

W. E. B. R. 10